

mutual suspicions that have unhappily alienated us as Churchmen one from another, by the fatuous mistake of continuing to misunderstand one another. A little candid explanation, in the medium of a mutually received mode of expression, would go a great way towards bringing a harmony of views and action.

I turn from these general topics to glance at one or two matters connected more immediately with the concerns of our Diocese.

Six weeks have not elapsed since my Consecration; and, therefore, the account which I have to render of my Episcopal acts is necessarily slight, the knowledge I have acquired of the condition and needs of the Diocese but meagre.

CONSECRATION.

The first day of last month, the Feast of St. Philip and St. James was one to be remembered by me, as a most solemn and sacred one, throughout my life; for I was then set apart for the Holy office of a Bishop in the Church of God. The Right Revd. the Bishop of Quebec as Consecrator, and the Right Reverend the Bishops of Huron and Algoma as presenters—the Bishops of Niagara and Montreal assisting in the laying on of hands. The Sermon was preached by my oldest friend in Canada, who was the instrument of bringing me out to this country, and to whom I am indebted for the most unvarying kindness and constant friendship—his relations towards me having been those of a father to a son—the Lord Bishop of Huron. I pray that I may have grace given me to fulfil the vows which I then undertook, and to devote my life and all my powers to the sole object of faithfully executing the charge committed to me.

OBITUARY.

I cannot record my elevation to fill this important See without paying a tribute of respect and reverence to the memory of the godly and amiable prelate whom I am called to succeed. Alexander Neil Bethune will be affectionately remembered in the Church of Canada as one of those earlier pioneers who having entered upon her missionary work in the arduous days of her struggling infancy, and having borne the burden and heat of the day in a long service through times when the field was large, the duties laborious and the laborers few, lived to see the vast area sub-divided, churches plentifully scattered over a well populated land, and clergy multiplied tenfold, and to become himself the head of a great and prosperous Diocese; thus forming a link between the accomplished results of to-day when the Province of Ontario has five Bishops and upwards of 400 clergy, and the small beginnings of fifty-six years ago, when the one Diocese of Quebec embraced the whole of Upper and Lower Canada, and what is now the Diocese of Toronto was served by eight or ten clergymen.

Himself a favorite pupil of that great man, the first Bishop of Toronto, who by the indomitable energy of his character placed the church he loved so well and for which he fought so courageously upon a firm footing, and in his famous school at Cornwall, imparted of his own noble spirit and high qualities to so many who have since filled positions of honour and distinction in the Province, Dr. Bethune, too, as Principal of the Theological College at Cobourg, has left the impress of his scholarly mind, his ample attainments as a theologian and his sincere piety upon many of our most respected and useful clergy. For 40 years he ministered to his Cobourg parishioners, an example of constancy to his post, which might well rebuke the restless desire for change that marks the later generation of missionaries; and although well advanced in years when he succeeded his old instructor in the see of Toronto, he was spared to occupy it for the considerable term of twelve years. As a Bishop he was conscientious, diligent and faithful, not sparing himself, but tender and conciliating towards others; as a man he was characterized by that gentleness and amiability of disposition which is begotten of a sincere piety of mind. It was not possible that such a man should have an enemy. He passed away in the fulness of years, beloved of all, leaving behind him the memory of prolonged and faithful service in the Church of Christ, the fragrance of a saintly life, and the unspotted name of a courteous, Christian gentleman.

Since the last annual meeting of this Synod the Diocese has sustained the loss of two of its active clergy. The Rev. Stephen Lett, LL.D., the Rector of Collingwood, was called to his rest, after a lengthened term of service in important positions in the Church. His name will be had in special honour in this city, in connection with the Protestant Orphans' Home, in the establishment of which admirable institution he laboured so lovingly and strenuously during his incumbency of the Rectory of St. George's Church.

The Rev. W. F. Checkley was taken from his work in the prime of life and at a time when his services were most appreciated and promised to be most valuable, in his charge of the important congregation of St. Paul's in this city. An excellent scholar, a thoughtful preacher, a diligent pastor and a blameless gentleman, his unexpected loss was deeply felt by those who were only beginning to estimate his labours at their full worth.

EPISCOPAL ACTS.

During the short period of my episcopate, I have held one ordination—on Sunday last, being Trinity Sunday—in St. James' Cathedral, when one candidate was ordained deacon and two advanced to the priesthood.

I have also held four confirmations, in this city, in which the aggregate number confirmed was 140. I have preached 10 sermons, delivered several addresses, and administered the Holy Communion five times.

MISSION FUND.

I will not forestall, in saying a few words on this subject, the carefully prepared and exhaustive report of the Mission Board which will be presented for your adoption. But I wish to declare my intention of making the mission work of the Diocese the object of my chief solicitude and most unremitting care. It is a matter of cheering encouragement and deep thankfulness to God that after the period of embarrassment and depression through which this Fund has passed, it is now practically relieved of the burden of debt; and a season of brighter hope has dawned upon our work, through the generous liberality which has been provoked among the members of our Church by the munificent example of two brothers, who under the name of "Fratres" offered a gift of \$1000 towards liquidating the debt, on the condition of the remaining \$8000 being contributed within a specified time. This sum has been subscribed, and we shall enter upon the work of another year freed from the dead-weight which encumbered the fund. In addition to this, by the efforts of a few earnest friends of the Church, an annual subscription list to the Mission Fund has been raised in Toronto, amounting to nearly \$2,500, forming a guaranteed income to that sum, which will be a source of strength to the Committee's hands. The very fact that this amount has been raised from comparatively few subscribers, proves how much might be done if Churchmen generally, throughout the Diocese, would give their systematic support to this most important work of Church extension.

I do earnestly trust that such an agreement may be arrived at amongst us, as fellow labourers in the same great cause of extending the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and bringing in souls to His Church of such as shall be saved, that there may be one common fund for the support of the Diocesan Missions, into the augmentation of which every member of the Church will throw his heartiest, undivided, utmost efforts.

I must here recognize the worthy labours of those ladies who have formed themselves into the "Churchwoman's Mission Aid Society." By such an organization much help may be rendered to our work of a kind that could not be undertaken by our existing machinery and not least the collecting in of those small but, in the aggregate, most valuable contributions, which can only be given in weekly or monthly instalments by the less wealthy of our people. I trust that this society may have branches established in all our parishes, and that it may become, as in the sister Church of the United States, a recognized auxiliary of our Diocesan Board of Missions.

ALGOMA MISSION.

We have great cause to regret and with humili-

ation to confess a lukewarmness of interest, a falling off from our first zeal, in behalf of this our own adopted daughter diocese. The Bishops of the ecclesiastical Province have put forth an appeal to stir up the churches to a remembrance of their duty in this respect. The annual collection on Intercession Day is not a sufficient discharge of it; we want more than an intermittent excitement of our interest once a year. I trust that some system may be adopted, whether of monthly envelopes in the offertory or biennial sermons or otherwise, to keep alive a constant sense of our obligations and to furnish an adequate contribution of money, worthy of the capabilities of this favored diocese and of our love for the cause of our Master and His Church.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

It is also to be greatly regretted that this English Church of ours in Canada, whose loved and venerable mother leads the van in the glorious missionary enterprises of the world, should stand probably alone in having no Foreign Mission field of its own—that our diocese of Toronto does absolutely nothing even to send help to the great Missionary Societies.

I shall hail with joy, as the commencement of a new era of life and prosperity and blessing at home, the day when we awake to the duty of fulfilling our Lord's great missionary command and look up and lift up our eyes on the withering fields of the harvest abroad.

In the meantime a great step towards hastening this wished for day might be taken, by the adoption of some systematic scheme for diffusing among our Church people missionary intelligence, both by means of periodical meetings and by the regular circulation of the reports and occasional papers of the societies. For this end I would gladly see the establishment of a working Standing Committee on Foreign Missions.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Deeply convinced of the inestimable value of this institution as a nursery and recruiting ground of the Church, I trust that some well-devised scheme may be matured for improving the efficiency of our Sunday Schools, by supplying means of self and mutual training for the teachers, and furnishing the most approved material, in the way of registers, class-books, conduct cards, &c., at a low cost. I would throw out the suggestion that this might be best accomplished by thoroughly working a Diocesan branch of the excellent "Church of England Sunday School Institute."

ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY.

It appears to have been felt for some time that the existing system adopted in this Diocese, of numerous and large committees for the management of the various departments of Synod work, is unnecessarily expensive, cumbrous and exclusive in its operation. With this impression, a canon was passed at the last annual session, and awaits confirmation at this, providing for a reduction in the number both of the committees and of the members composing them. But this canon makes no reference to the financial question (an important one when we consider that it costs from four to five hundred dollars per annum merely to pay the travelling expenses of the members of committees), nor does it touch upon such questions as the mode of appointing these Committees.

It would much aid me in the business portions of the necessarily arduous duties of my office and greatly facilitate the working of the diocese, if the Synod machinery were simplified, as much as possible, by being made more flexible and systematic. I feel, too, that if the President is to be responsible for, as he will be held to be, and intimately cognizant, as he ought to be, of all that is transacted under the authority of the Synod, he should have the opportunity of at least acquainting himself with what is done in committee. I should be glad if the present Synod should see fit to appoint a select committee to consider this whole subject, and report at the next session.

And now, brethren, we are about to take counsel together on important matters affecting the welfare of our beloved Church. It is a subject of congratulation to me that I am called to preside over a body of gentlemen combining social position, Church training, Christian principle, high intelligence and distinguished cultivated abilities to a greater extent than any deliberative or legislative